

NEWS RELEASE

OFFICE OF THE UNITED STATES ATTORNEY WESTERN DISTRICT OF MISSOURI

TODD P. GRAVES

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MOUNTAIN VIEW MAN PLEADS GUILTY TO BANK ROBBERY

SPRINGFIELD, Mo. – Todd P. Graves, United States Attorney for the Western District of Missouri, announced that a Mountain View, Mo., man pleaded guilty in federal court today to robbing West Plains Bank and Trust Company in Mountain View.

Randy Stephen Armstrong, 48, of Mountain View, pleaded guilty before U.S. Magistrate Judge James C. England this morning to the charge contained in a May 4, 2005, federal indictment.

Armstrong admitted that he used an object that appeared to be a handgun to steal \$14,079 from West Plains Bank and Trust Company on April 16, 2005.

Armstrong, wearing a western hat, glasses and green latex gloves with his shirt pulled up over the lower part of his face, entered the bank shortly before noon, Graves said. **Armstrong** admitted that he approached a female teller and, pointing an object that appeared to be a handgun at her face, ordered her to put the money from her teller drawer into a white plastic bag he tossed to her. After the teller put the money into the bag, **Armstrong** ordered her to also put in the money from an adjoining teller window into the bag.

Under federal statutes, **Armstrong** could be subject to a sentence of up to 25 years in federal prison without parole, plus a fine up to \$250,000. A sentencing hearing will be scheduled after the completion of a presentence investigation by the United States Probation Office.

This case is being prosecuted by Assistant U.S. Attorney Douglas C. Bunch. It was investigated by the Federal Bureau of Investigation, the Mountain View, Mo., Police Department, the Howell County, Mo., Sheriff's Department, and the Missouri State Highway Patrol.

This news release, as well as additional information about the office of the United States

Attorney for the Western District of Missouri, is available on-line at www.usdoj.gov/usao/mow